GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:163
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
ENCROACHMENTS NEAR MONUMENTS
RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the boundary walls of Jahapanah consisting of Qila Rai Pithora, city of Siri and Lal Kot has been encroached upon extensively eliminating the very character of Jahapanah built by Emperor Mohammad-bin-Tughlaq in the 14th Century;

(b) if so, the details and the facts thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to safeguard the said monuments?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

A STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.163 FOR 3.3.2003 REGARDING ENCROACHMENTS NEAR MONUMENTS

Over the last decade or two, a number of encroachments have been taking place on public land in Delhi including the area covered by Qila Rai Pithora, Jahapanah, Siri, Tugalakabad, Lal Kot, etc. While primary responsibility for clearance of encroachments is that of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority and other local agencies, the Archaeological Survey of India/Department of Culture has also a role to play with regard to prevention of encroachments within the `prohibited` or `regulated` area in terms of the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.The area up to 100 metres from the protected limits and further beyond up to 200 metres near or adjoining protected monuments fall under prohibited and regulated areas, respectively.

As regards the action to be taken under the law by the Archaeological Survey of India/Department of Culture, a drive has recently been launched to rid the monuments of the encroachments. Lal Kot/Qila Rai Pithora has largely been cleared and radically improved and conserved. Likewise, a lot of clearance has been done from Tughlakabad area and the complex improved/conserved. Action to improve the matters further is in hand.